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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/711,478	11/13/2000	Brian A. Vulpitta	MA-12957	7902

7590

08/09/2006

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EXAMINER

RHEE, JANE J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1745

DATE MAILED: 08/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**supplementary
Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/711,478

Examiner

Jane Rhee

Applicant(s)

VULPITTA ET AL.

Art Unit

1745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/28/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7 and 9-10, 16.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Hauber on October 17, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 7 line 8, "." has been deleted and –wherein the length of tape comprising a leader portion fixed to the core, a foam support position and a usable tape portion, the foam support portion positioned after the leader portion and before the usable tape portion; and a compressible foam strip fixed to the tape foam support portion.—has been added.

In claim 16 line 8, "." has been deleted and –wherein the length of tape comprising a leader portion fixed to the core, a foam support position and a usable tape portion, the foam support portion positioned after the leader portion and before the usable tape portion; and a compressible foam strip fixed to the tape foam support portion.—has been added.

Reasons For Allowance

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2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art, Schonhorns et al. discloses an adhesive tape product comprising a hollow cylindrical core (figure 5 number 10) having a diameter and a width, and an outer surface a compressible foam strip surrounding the core (figure 5 number 60), and a length of adhesive tape having a uniform width and a length substantially greater than the width wound in several forms about the core and the foam strip (col. 5 lines 9-12).

Schonhorns et al. fail to teach a leader portion fixed to the core, a foam support portion, and a usable tape portion wherein the foam portion is located after the leader portion and before the usable tape portion. The final rejection was based on an obvious equivalent function of applicant's invention in view of the prior art Schonhorn. However, in response to the final rejection, applicant filed an appeal brief arguing that the appellant is claiming a specific structure and not a function. Therefore, in view of appellant's arguments, the prior art fail to teach or suggest a leader portion fixed to the core, a foam support portion, and a usable tape portion wherein the foam portion is located after the leader portion and before the usable tape portion. Furthermore, applicant agreed to file a terminal disclaimer over copending application 10416597 to avoid a future obvious double patenting rejection.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jane Rhee whose telephone number is 571-272-1499. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jane Rhee
July 9, 2006



PATRICK JOSEPH RYAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER